

TOWN OF FOXBOROUGH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 7th, 2015

Committee Members Present: Tracey Vasile, Larry Thomas, Cal Calnan, Patrick Mosesso, Larry Stern, Kristin Papianou, Monica Fisler, Sue Dring, Heidi Krockta, John Chlebek, Thom Freeman, Javed Hussain

Others Present: Randy Scollins, Ginny Coppola, Bill Casbarra, Chief O’Leary, Chief Hatfield, Sue Thibedeau, Bill Keegan

Notes taken by: Maham Zia

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Tracey Vasile.

7:00 PM Introduction and Overview—

Tracey asked about the upcoming dates such as the Town Meeting, and the Final Warrant Article (Second week of May and Feb 15th respectively) before moving on to the budget reviews.

7:05 PM Officer Sue Thibedeau Budget Review – Animal Control

There was a discussion on level funding each year after Larry S brought up the changing gas rates. Randy mentioned that the level funding existed due to unpredictable gas rates to which Sue added that the unspent fuel comes back to the town as free cash regardless. The discussion ended with Tracey requesting a comparison of gasoline usage in different departments. Thom added that the level funding could help take care of unexpected expenses at the end of the year even if the gas is not used up some years.

Javed had general questions about Animal Control’s regular tasks and what the line item “pest control” means. Sue named some of her tasks such as identifying and removing sick animals or directing calls about animals. The pest control line item is one that she simply inherited as she does not have many lines in the budget, she explained.

Heidi had questions about the animal control vehicle maintenance. Bill K responded that, again, it was better to level fund the amount needed for vehicle maintenance. This concluded the Animal Control review and Tracey thanked Sue for her presentation.

7:15 PM Commissioner Bill Casbarra Budget Review - Inspection

Bill C provided a summary of his budge noting that it is level funded and that there would be a new vehicle requested at CIP because the current one’s condition.

Thom asked about the jump in training and certification. Bill C responded that an insurance study organization had prescribed some training programs.

Larry T and Tracey touched on the appropriation compared to other activity that brought in funds. Randy responded that the amount fluctuates pretty dramatically and is level fund it so that funding that may be needed is not lost. Bill C added the example of the hike in training and certification fees that was not anticipated.

Tracey thanked Bill C for his presentation at the conclusion of this discussion.

7:30 PM Chief Ed O’Leary Budget Review – Police

Chief O’Leary summarized his budget pointing to some increases. These included an increase in enforcement due to traffic accidents on some streets, local roads, putting defibrillators in cruisers. He added that they would attempt to raise most of the funding for the defibrillators.

Heidi expressed concern about the crime rates and drug usage number, saying that the citizens might be interested in knowing the numbers. She also asked if the defibrillator would be included in all cars. A discussion on defibrillators ensued. Larry S asked about the instance of Cardiac Arrest compared to drugs to which Chief Hatfield assured that there was more instance of Cardiac Arrest. Larry S and Tracey both agreed that defibrillators made sense. Thom asked if the budget item for defibrillators also included training cost. Chief O’Leary explained that his officers were already trained and had used defibrillators present in buildings when the need arose.

Javed asked if there is a system in place for the neighbors when there are break ins in the neighborhood. Chief O’Really responded that general vigilance such as locking cars and doors would be useful.

Thom asked about one of the line items that looked bigger. Chief O’Leary explained that some of the tech and database and system maintenance cost had been moved into that line.

Heidi asked if anything in the budget addressed the opiate issues. Chief O’Leary and Bill K both explained that this issue was more about education and culture as attempts in the past didn’t have the projected results. Bill K said that the issue needs to start with grassroots and then be supported rather than a top down process for it to work. Tracey additionally asked how many officers were geared with narc related equipment. Chief O’Leary responded that every car contains the needed gear.

On a final note, Larry T asked if the police contract end this year. Chief O’Leary said that the contract is under negotiation currently.

7:55PM Chief Ed O’Leary Budget review – Central Dispatch

Chief O’Leary talked about changing to a cellular system for which the current grants may not apply. He concluded that some of that expense might fall on the town if supplemental grants are not found. Chief O’Leary also mentioned that enhancing the emergency notification system will also present an added expense.

Larry T asked if there was more thought on regionalization. Chief O’Leary responded that there was improved sharing of information, resources and networking. For further steps, the consultants will need to complete their assessments of the towns. These assessments will then be passed on to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Tracey asked what had caused the delay in regionalization. Chief O’Leary explained that the delay was largely due to Franklin’s high call volume. The discussion concluded with

Tracey thanking Chief O’Leary for his presentation to which Chief O’Leary added that Monica can bring him any further questions.

8:05 PM Chief Roger Hatfield Budget Review – Fire & Public Safety Building

Chief Hatfield supplied an overview of the budget, mentioning the continuing costs and some new ones.

Tracey asked about the jump in tuition reimbursement from \$2000- \$10,000. Chief Hatfield explained that that number was the original request and has since been lowered. This was followed by a brief discussion about how Chief Hatfield arrived at the number and whether there is standardized tuition reimbursement. The general conclusion was that tuition reimbursement is beneficial and may be worth standardizing in the future.

Tracey asked about the jump from \$57,000 to \$77,000 for office manager. Chief Hatfield explained that this amount was for two positions, one for a coordinator and one for an assistant who had already put in good work and needed titles that represented their responsibilities better.

Tracey and Chief Hatfield had a brief discussion about ambulances and their maintenance. Chief Hatfield mentioned that it was better to keep up with the maintenance instead of waiting for things to break down since that ultimately costs more.

Patrick asked about the distinction between captain and lieutenants in terms of coverage. Chief Hatfield said that some of the positions were being stretched thin and needed to be given full roles.

Javed asked how our ambulatory service where the users paid 80% was different from other ambulatory services. Chief Hatfield explained that as opposed to other services they were not looking to make a profit from the tax payers in what they paid towards ambulatory services.

Tracey thanked Chief Hatfield for being well prepared for his presentation at the conclusion.

9:00PM Advisory Committee Minutes Review—

October 8th 2014 Meeting Minutes

Larry T Motioned to accept the minutes and Javed seconded. Tracey abstained.

Vote: 11/0/1

October 15th 2014 Meeting Minutes

Larry T motioned to accept minutes and Javed seconded. Tracey abstained.

Vote: 11/0/1

October 22nd 2014 Meeting Minutes

Larry T motioned to accept the minutes and Javed seconded. Larry S and Sue abstained.

Vote: 10/0/2

October 29th 2014 Meeting Minutes

Tracey had a few edits. Larry T motioned to accept with amendments and Javed seconded.

Vote: 12/0/0

December 3rd 2014 Meeting Minutes

There were a few edits. Larry T motioned to accept and Javed seconded. Larry S and Heidi abstained.

Vote: 10/0/2

Other Discussions—

Tracey asked if there was anything big in the school budgets. Larry T said that there could be since a lot of lower level courses were being replaced with specialized courses such as engineering and computer science.

There was also a short discussion on sewer and 40B which will be brought up again in the upcoming meeting.

9:25 PM Adjourn –

Larry T moved to adjourn and John seconded.

Vote: 11/0/0

Minutes approved by Vote of the Advisory Committee.

Date of Meeting: February, 11, 2015

Vote: 7-0-0

Tracey Vasile

Signature of Chairperson